AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

On page 1, please delete the first paragraph on lines 3-8 and substitute therefor:

This application is a continuation-in-part of application serial No. 09/591,694, filed June 9, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,638,734, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/367,334, filed June 11, 1999, which was converted from U.S. Serial No. 09/330,517, and is incorporated herein by reference.

On page 7, please delete the paragraph on lines 13-31 and substitute therefor:

~~Figure 13 shows~~ Figures 13A-13C show additional examples of ODC-adapter-induced degradation of target protein(s). Figure 13 A shows antizyme-dependent targeted degradation of retinoblastoma (Rb) by ODC-E7 peptide. HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with plasmid encoding HA-Rb, ODC, ODC-E7 peptide or myc-Antizyme in various combinations, as indicated. Figure 13B shows antizyme-independent targeted degradation of Cdk2 by ODC-p21waf-1. HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with plasmid encoding myc-Cdk2, ODC, ODC-p21waf-1 or myc-Antizyme in various combinations, as indicated. Figure 13C shows antizyme-independent targeted degradation of IKKβ by ODC-IKKβ (leucine-zipper domain). HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with plasmid encoding HA-IKKβ, ODC, ODC-IKKβ-LZ or myc-Antizyme in various combinations, as indicated. After 24 h, cell lysates were prepared and analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted using antibodies specific for Rb, Cdk2, IKKβ or HSC70 (as a control).

On page 9, please delete the paragraph on lines 4-22 and substitute therefor:

~~Figure 17 shows~~ Figures 17A and 17B show functional analysis using ODC-E7 peptide. Figure 17A shows degradation of endogenous Rb protein by ODC-E7. HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with plasmid encoding ODC, ODC-E7 peptide or myc-Antizyme in various combinations, as indicated. After 48 h, lysates were prepared and subjected to immunoprecipitation using anti-Rb monoclonal antibody. The immunoprecipitates were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting using an anti-Rb monoclonal antibody. Figure 17B shows the effect of ODC-E7 on E2F reporter activity. HEK293T cells were transiently transfected with a reporter gene plasmid that contains a E2F responsive element cloned upstream of a luciferase reporter gene, together with pCMVβ-gal as a transfection-efficiency control, and plasmids encoding ODC, ODC-E7 or Antizyme in various combinations, as indicated in Figure 17A. Luciferase activity was measured in cell lysates 24 hr later, and normalized relative to β-galactosidase (mean ± std. dev.; n = 3).

On page 23, please delete the paragraph on lines 11-23 and substitute therefor:

It is understood that a SMDP and/or SCP-encoding nucleic acid molecule of the invention, as used herein, specifically excludes previously known nucleic acid molecules consisting of nucleotide sequences having identity with the SMDP and/or SCP-encoding nucleotide sequence (e.g., SEQ ID NO:NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13), such as Expressed Sequence Tags (ESTs), Sequence Tagged Sites (STSs) and genomic fragments, deposited in public databases such as the nr, dbest, dbsts, gss and htgs databases, which are available for searching at ~~http://~~www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/blast.cgi?Jform=0, using the program BLASTN 2.0.9 described by Altschul et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389-3402 (1997).